

RECOGNIZING RALPH HOLLMON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ralph Hollmon who is retiring from the Milwaukee Urban League (MUL), on December 31, 2016. He has served the organization since 2002, when he assumed the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the MUL.

Over the 14 years at the helm of the MUL, he has been in charge of the organization's management, strategic planning and overall operation insuring that the League's education, employment, economic development and social justice programs are implemented in an effective manner. He was also the Central Region Vice President of the National Urban League Association of Executives. Mr. Hollmon has been a tireless advocate for the organization and its commitment to serving African Americans and others in need of assistance in order to improve the quality of their lives.

Mr. Hollmon has spent much of his career helping uplift those in need and has a wealth of knowledge gained by service in various governmental and community positions including: Director, Milwaukee County Department of Human Services, Chief Executive Officer of the Private Industry Council, Executive Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and held positions with the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration and the Social Development Commission of Milwaukee County. Prior to joining the Milwaukee Urban League, Ralph led his own company as President of Hollmon Management and Consulting LLC, (HMC) a project management and public affairs consulting firm.

Mr. Hollmon holds a long standing commitment to community service and has served on a variety of civic and community boards/commissions including: Co-Chair of the Milwaukee Commission on Police Community Relations, Co-Chair of the Governor's Business Opportunity Advisory Commission; member of the JP Morgan Chase Bank National Community Advisory Board; Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Board of Directors; VISIT Milwaukee Board of Directors; Milwaukee Succeeds Executive Committee; Greater Downtown Action Agenda Executive Leadership Committee; African American Chamber of Commerce and Member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee.

Ralph Hollmon is a homegrown Milwaukeean and graduated from North Division High School. He received his undergraduate degree at Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa, and earned his Master's Degree in Urban Affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also completed the Executive Education Program, "Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management" at the Harvard School of Business.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Ralph Hollmon for many years on issues at the various positions where he has had tenure. I join with his wife Margaret and friends in congratulating him on his many years of service to this community and the Milwaukee Urban League. Ralph has led the organization admirably and I wish him

much success as he transitions into a different phase of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ralph Hollmon, I am proud to call him a friend and thank him for all he has done. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of his ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Ralph E. Hollmon.

TRIBUTE TO THERESA RANGEL

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Theresa Rangel. A beloved San Antonian, Theresa grew up on the West Side of the city where she attended Blessed Sacrament High School. She married her high school sweetheart, Ernest A. Rangel, with whom she traveled the world, had two children, and enjoyed 48 years of marriage.

Throughout her career, Theresa served the San Antonio community and strove to help the people of our city excel. She worked at the University of the Incarnate Word in career development, and later became a caseworker in the office of Congressman Albert G. Bustamante. She went on to work in the Small Business Administration before joining the office of legendary Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez where she was a caseworker. She remained in that position when Charles Gonzalez won the congressional seat in 1999, and eventually retired in 2013 after 28 years of dignified civil service.

After her retirement, Theresa remained active. She was a member of several Bible study groups, spent time scrapbooking, and was a devoted grandmother to five grandchildren whom she loved dearly.

Theresa touched the lives of so many in our city, and I join her family and those whom she helped in mourning her loss. She was an exemplary civil servant and American whose contributions to our community and Nation will not be forgotten.

HONORING OFFICER CECILE FOCHA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Cecile Focha, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Sonoma County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A native of Oakland, California, Officer Focha received her B.A. in Integral Liberal Arts at St. Mary's College and her K-12 Teaching Credential at California State University, Hayward. Prior to her work in law enforcement, Officer Focha was an elementary school teacher.

Officer Focha joined the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office in 1998. Over the past 18 years, she has served as the first female Detective Sergeant in the history of the Office, the supervisor of the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Detective Unit, and the first Press Information Officer for the agency. Officer Focha was instrumental in the establishment of the Sonoma County Family Justice Center and is the President of the Board of Directors for Verity, Sonoma County's only rape crisis center. In recognition of her tremendous service, the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office awarded Officer Focha with the Bronze Medal of Merit, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors awarded her a Certificate of Commendation for her work with Alive at 25, a model teen driving program she helped establish.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Focha for her dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 INDIANA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR NATHAN BOYD

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grissom Middle School Principal Nathan Boyd, who was recently named the 2016 Indiana Middle School Principal of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

Principals from across Indiana selected Mr. Boyd for this great honor due to his commitment to excellence in education and his tireless work to give all his students the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Each year, the IASP recognizes outstanding leaders in education for their contributions to the profession and the difference they make in students' lives. Since becoming principal of Grissom Middle School in 2013, Mr. Boyd has been an exemplary educator and administrator. He has maintained the school's record of academic achievement and its A rating from the Indiana Department of Education. He has introduced innovative programs and strategies to motivate and inspire students, including the "Grissom Drum Brigade" and the popular "Club Honors." And he has fostered a culture of excellence among the school's teachers to best prepare students for the future.

As principal, Mr. Boyd works each day to create a shared vision and purpose that stays true to Grissom Middle School's motto: "Good, Better, Best." Under Mr. Boyd's leadership, Grissom Middle School is providing students a positive, challenging, and academically-oriented learning environment with a focus on building knowledge, reinforcing values, and developing a strong sense of self-worth for every student.

Having received the Indiana Principal of the Year Award, Mr. Boyd will represent the Hoosier State at the National Association of Secondary School Principals Recognition Program in the Fall of 2017. Mr. Boyd's energy and passion for serving his students and his ability to inspire enthusiasm in his team distinguish him as an exceptional leader. He exemplifies